

Puerto Rico

SOURCE: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Office of the Governor, Environmental Quality Board, Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards, amended November 1987: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/wqslibrary/>

Article I. Definitions

Benthic Species. Organisms that inhabit on, over, or in the bottom of the water body.;live adhered to the bottom or crawl over the bottom.

Biota. All living organisms.

Desirable Species. Species indigenous to the area or introduced to the area because of ecological or commercial value.

Ecological Community. Group of organisms dominated by one species or a specific group of species. The ecological community derives its name from that of the dominant species, such as coral reefs and mangroves.

Ecological Value. Refers to the existing interrelations between water body, fauna and flora that result in the continuity, stability and permanence of the ecological community.

Pelagic Species. Organisms that have the ability of self locomotion and can overcome the currents. These organisms can be found anywhere in the water column, near the surface, the bottom or at any point between the surface and the bottom.

Planktonic Species. Marine organisms that mainly inhabit the surface of the receiving body of water. Their main characteristic is that they cannot overcome the currents even if they have self locomotion.

Propagation and Preservation of Desirable Species. This refers to the reproduction and continuance of flora and fauna associated with water bodies and which have ecologic importance and/or commercial value, whether individually or as part of an ecological community.

Wetlands. Areas inundated or saturated by coastal, surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

ARTICLE 2. CLASSIFICATION OF THE WATERS OF PUERTO RICO ACCORDING TO THE DESIGNATED USES TO BE PROTECTED

3.2 Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards for Specific Classifications:

3.2.1 Class SA:

(A) Usages and Description: Coastal waters and estuarine waters of high quality and/or exceptional ecological or recreational value whose existing characteristics shall not be altered, except by natural causes, in order to preserve the existing natural phenomena.

3.2.2 Class SB:

(A) Usages and Description. Coastal waters and estuarine waters for use in primary and secondary contact recreation, and for propagation and preservation of desirable species.

3.2.3 Class SC:

(A) Usages and Description: Coastal waters intended ...for use in propagation and preservation

of desirable species.

3.2.4 Class SD:

(A) Usages and Description: Surface waters intended for ... propagation and preservation of desirable species as well as primary and secondary contact recreation...

3.2.5 Class SE:

(A) Usages and Description: Surface waters and wetlands of exceptional ecological value, whose existing characteristics should not be altered in order to preserve the existing natural phenomena.